

I keep a list of all food businesses I've tried, and a record of my experiences at each one. Since I enjoy food so much and many people constantly come to me for recommendations, I've decided to publish a list of my top restaurants twice a year (one at the end of June/beginning of July for mid-year, and a second at the end of December/beginning of January for end of year).

NKBC'S MID 2020 TOP PLACES TO EAT

Includes:

- ▶ Top 29 **SAN FRANCISCO** Places to Eat
(29 was chosen based on my current age, and the number will grow with my age)
- ▶ Top 5 **OAKLAND** Places to Eat
- ▶ Top 5 **NORCAL** (non-San Francisco & non-Oakland) Places to Eat
- ▶ Top 5 **SOCAL** Places to Eat
- ▶ Top 5 **USA** (non-California) Places to Eat

TOP 29 SAN FRANCISCO PLACES TO EAT

(Listed Alphabetically)

AKIKO'S RESTAURANT \$\$\$ Japanese, Sushi Favorite Item(s): ika, gindara, sashimi	BLUE BARN GOURMET \$\$ Sandwiches, Salads Favorite Item(s): kickin' chicken sandwich	BLUE PLATE \$\$\$ American Favorite Item(s): everything!	BRENDA'S FRENCH SOUL FOOD \$\$ Southern, Cajun/Creole Favorite Item(s): fried chicken, chocolate beignets, shrimp & grits
DE AFGHANAN KABOB HOUSE \$\$ Afghan, Middle Eastern Favorite Item(s): chaplee kabob, bolani	DELFINA \$\$\$ Italian Favorite Item(s): sfornato, roasted mary's chicken, goat cheese francobolli, dark choco bonet	DUMPLING TIME \$\$ Dim Sum, Chinese Favorite Item(s): green tea & milk bun, egg yolk bun	EBISU \$\$ Japanese, Sushi Favorite Item(s): otoro; all their nigiri, sashimi, sushi offerings are exceptional!
EL TECHO \$\$ Latin American Favorite Item(s): carnitas	FOREIGN CINEMA \$\$\$ Mediterranean Favorite Item(s): their desserts, croque madame	GARY DANKO \$\$\$ American, French Favorite Item(s): everything! great dining experience!	IL CASARO PIZZERIA & MOZZARELLA BAR \$\$ Italian, Pizza Favorite Item(s): burrata, diavola pizza
IN SITU \$\$\$ American Favorite Item(s): jasper hill farm cheesecake, cuttlefish cappuccino, caramelized carrot soup	JEEPNEY GUY \$ Filipino Favorite Item(s): lechon, lumpia <small>*based in Oakland but I've only eaten from their food truck/stall at SF events*</small>	KEIKO A NOB HILL \$\$\$ Japanese, French Favorite Item(s): everything was amazing! splurge on the wine pairing if possible	LA TAQUERIA \$ Mexican Favorite Item(s): carne asada super taco
LIHOLIHO YACHT CLUB \$\$\$ American Favorite Item(s): baked hawaii, shaved pig head w/ crispy pig ears, kimchi fried rice	LOLO \$\$ Mexican Favorite Item(s): calamari & octopus gorditas	ROKA AKOR \$\$\$ Japanese Favorite Item(s): otoro	SHEBA PIANO LOUNGE \$\$ Ethiopian Favorite Item(s): any of the sambussas, any of the african courses w/ injera, honey wine
SOTTO MARE OYSTERIA & SEAFOOD \$\$ Italian, Seafood Favorite Item(s): cioppino, seafood linguine	THE CHAIRMAN \$ Taiwanese Favorite Item(s): pork belly bun, beef short rib bun, braised pork bun	THE NEW SPOT ON POLK \$\$ Burgers, Diner Favorite Item(s): crispy buffalo chicken sandwich, bacon bbq burger, curly fries	THE PROGRESS \$\$\$ American Favorite Item(s): ham & cheese roti, peanut milk
TONY'S PIZZA NAPOLETANA \$\$ Italian, Pizza Favorite Item(s): motorhead pizza, meatball gigante	TRESTLE \$\$\$ American Favorite Item(s): milk chocolate custard w/ pomegranate, pine nuts, kabocha squash	VOODOO LOVE \$\$ Cajun/Creole Favorite Item(s): fried chicken, dat fuqin seafood roll	WAKO JAPANESE RESTAURANT \$\$\$ Japanese, Sushi Favorite Item(s): great omakase experience!
WAYFARE TAVERN \$\$\$ American Favorite Item(s): fried chicken, tavern burger			

TOP 5 OAKLAND PLACES TO EAT

(Listed Alphabetically)

ABURAYA JAPANESE FRIED CHICKEN \$\$ Japanese Favorite Item(s): fried chicken - garlic miso or curry	BELLY \$\$ Asian, Mexican Favorite Item(s): steak & eggs taco	HOPSCOTCH \$\$ American Favorite Item(s): yonsei oyster, black sesame semifreddo
MISS OLLIE'S \$\$ Caribbean Favorite Item(s): fried chicken, collard greens	MUA \$\$ American Favorite Item(s): smoked trout salad, bread pudding	

TOP 5 NORCAL PLACES TO EAT

(Listed Alphabetically)

ANGELINE'S LOUISIANA KITCHEN \$\$ / Berkeley Southern Favorite Item(s): fried chicken entree, hush puppies, chocolate cayenne cake	DARBAR \$\$ / Palo Alto Indian Favorite Item(s): paneer tikka appetizer, butter chicken, chicken tikka masala	FLAVAS JAMAICAN GRILL \$\$ / South San Francisco Caribbean Favorite Item(s): braised oxtail, jerk chicken
OLD FISHERMAN'S GROTTTO \$\$ / Monterey Seafood, Steakhouse Favorite Item(s): fisherman's wharf platter	OREN'S HUMMUS \$\$ / Palo Alto Mediterranean Favorite Item(s): everything! amazing hummus!	

TOP 5 SOCAL PLACES TO EAT

(Listed Alphabetically)

BISTRO NA'S \$\$ / Temple City Chinese Favorite Item(s): crispy shrimp, sweet fried rice cake	DIN TAI FUNG \$\$ / Glendale Dim Sum, Taiwanese Favorite Item(s): xiaolongbao	JUNIPER & IVY \$\$\$ / San Diego American Favorite Item(s): chocolate yodel
OTIUM \$\$\$ / Los Angeles American Favorite Item(s): naan, beef tartare, spinach bucatini, black cod	THE BAZAAR BY JOSE ANDRES \$\$\$ / Los Angeles Spanish Favorite Item(s): paella night	

TOP 5 USA (outside California) PLACES TO EAT

(Listed Alphabetically)

CENTRAL BBQ \$\$ / Memphis, TN Southern, BBQ Favorite Item(s): ribs - wet or dry, caramel cake	HUSK \$\$\$ / Nashville, TN American, Southern Favorite Item(s): fire roasted napa cabbage, shrimp & grits	MARTANNE'S CAFE \$\$ / Flagstaff, AZ Mexican Favorite Item(s): everything was great w/ huge servings! fresh apple juice
PECHE \$\$\$ / New Orleans, LA Seafood Favorite Item(s): salted caramel cake, smoked drum, smoked tuna dip	THE SALT LICK BBQ \$\$ / Driftwood, TX BBQ Favorite Item(s): all their bbq! beef brisket, pork ribs, sausage!	